



Alternate Channel

The newsletter for and about the members of the
LOUDOUN COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SYSTEM

APRIL 2005



Hyde Park Fire

D/O Patrick Todd and Lt. Jennifer Morimoto (SVFC) advance a hand line up Quint 11's ladder to prepare for overhaul activities on the Hyde Park House Fire.

See story & photographs on Page 7. Photographs Courtesy of Danielle Schweisthal, Co. 11

Alternate Channel

is a monthly publication for members, families and supporters of the Loudoun County Fire-Rescue system produced by the Loudoun County Department of Fire-Rescue Services.

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Editor: Frankie H. Rust
frust@loudoun.gov

The mailing address for information or articles is:

Alternate Channel

Loudoun County Department of
Fire & Rescue Services
16600 Courage Court
Leesburg, Virginia 20175

Deadline Submission

Date:

Submissions for the Alternate Channel issues are due by the first business day of the previous month.

Example:

May 1st for June Issue

Company Reporters:

- Co. 1 J.B. Anderson, &
Ian Buchanan
- Co. 2 Rick Reaves
- Co. 3 Buddy Owens
- Co. 4 Jack Frear
- Co. 5 Jim Reed
- Co. 6 Lauren Law
- Co. 7 Jeannie Cooper
- Co. 8 William D. Schwartz
- Co. 9
- Co.10 Frank Fitchett
- Co.11 David Short
- Co.12 Mike Senate
- Co.13 Marie Householder
- Co.14 Sue Johnson
- Co.15 Wilma Grant
- Co.16 Jim Dunagin
- Co.17 Rodney Krone, Jr.

Co. 6's Volunteer Spotlight

Meet Captain **Michael "Mike" Cremins**. We honor Mike this month by highlighting him in the "Spotlight" as he is the winner of the prestigious **Billy Costello Award**. This award praises the winner for his superior service to the department and for his excellence in training. Mike was so overwhelmed when his name was called for this award, that he found himself unable to muster the appropriate words of appreciation. Mike felt remiss in not mentioning what was most important to him about this award, which is, "It is an honor to be associated with his (Billy Costello) name." Further he felt that Mr. Costello was such a great example for others to follow by his lifelong commitment to the fire and rescue service and that Mike is now so very proud to be linked to Mr. Costello's legacy.

Mike serves on the Board of Directors as a Director at Large, though Mike has been a volunteer with the Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department for about 5 ½ years. Mike is both a firefighter and an EMT and loves every minute of it. Before Mike joined AVFRS, he was in the military for 8 years where he obtained experience in both fire and rescue as a Medic and as a member of various rapid response teams. Mike loved serving his country while in the military. After the military Mike pursued his Masters degree in Electrical Engineering, moved to Ashburn, and eventually joined AVFRS. To Mike, his service as a Firefighter/EMT allows him to continue the honor of serving our country.

In Mike's humble way, he gives a lot of the credit to his Tuesday night duty crew, where it was with their assistance that Mike brought a man pronounced dead back to life and helped delivery two babies. One was a new year's baby, the first in Loudoun County in 2003. Mike his crew were subsequently in the news along with the grateful family.

Mike describes his wife, Andrea, as a "saint" for being so understanding of the many hours he devotes to the fire and rescue department. "She holds it together at home without ever complaining." Together, they have two children, Eileen - 9 y.o., and Brendan - 7 y. o.

78th Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival

The festival will be held April 26th through May 1st, 2005. The dates and times for the Firefighter's Activities are:

Saturday, April 2, 2005

2:00 p.m.-Out of Town Honorary Fire Chief Contest

7:00 p.m.-In Town Honorary Fire Chief Contest

Thursday April 28th-5:00 p.m.- Firefighters' Reception at Shentel Tent, Winchester Medical Center

Friday, April 29th-5:00 p.m. Firefighters Parade (Application deadline for Parade is the first Monday in March)

The Firefighters' Handbook will be sent to you at a later date. If you have any questions or need additional information please call the Festival office at 540-662-3863.

COMPANY NEWS

Serving the Community means always moving forward

Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department has just spent the last 12 months leaping forward to serve the fast growing Ashburn Community that now measures 36 square miles and a population of over 40,000.

There aren't many today that remember or could visualize our fire department's small beginnings without even a truck and the volunteers being called by a bell on Billy Costello's front porch. Partlows is a stop on the W&OD trail for refreshments now, but the Partlows, Melvin Byrne, Billy Costello and over 30 other men were the driving force behind starting AVFRD. 29 career and 120 volunteers carry that passion and work hard today to be the best trained fire and rescue department.

During 2004, AVFRD opened a 2nd station-Station 23, took delivery of 4 new Class A fire trucks, kicked off the Truck Operations Program and scored zero deficiencies in the EMS Inspection with the Virginia Department of Emergency Medical Services. Working with the community and various agencies we have succeeded in improving our ISO rating from 6/9 to 4. With heroic rescues, like the January "Miracle Man" we have saved lives.

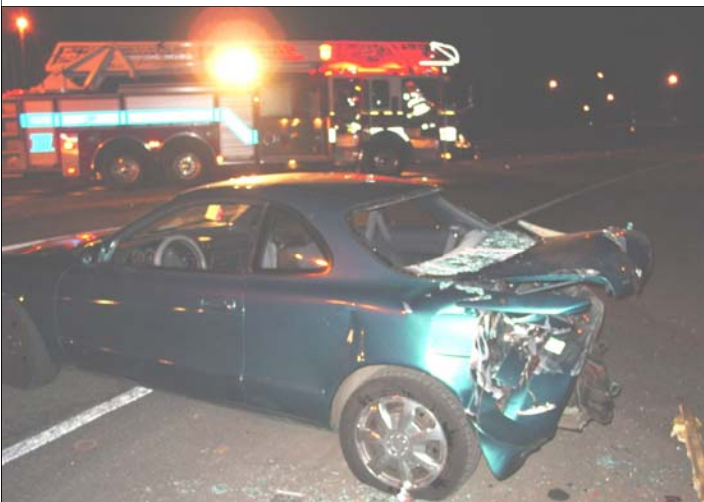
AVFRD will continue to be the "Everyday Heros" of Ashburn and will continue serving the community with the best trained and dedicated professionals...."neighbors helping neighbors", is more than a slogan, it is our mission.

Submitted by Karleen Hagan, Co. 6

Company 11:

Quint 18 responded to an auto accident located on Route 7 late in the evening on March 5th. Assisting on this accident was Battalion 2 - Wayne Whetsell, who came up on this accident while responding to a chimney fire in Countryside. Two patients were transported from one vehicle and the driver of the other vehicle refused treatment.

Submitted by David Short, Co. 11



Quint 18 illuminates the accident scene.



"Typical Sterling Wreck - the driver of this vehicle refused treatment".


Company 3 News:

The Officers for 2005 are: President Buddy Owens; Vice President Snooks Swain; Secretary Siobhan McClory; Treasurer Bruce Gilbert; Fire Chief Tom Sexton; Asst. Fire Chief Charlie Wright; Fire Captain Joe Murphy; Fire Lieutenant Paul Holsinger; Rescue Chief Allie Love; Asst. Rescue Chief Caro Bentley; Rescue Captain Bruce Gilbert; Rescue Lieutenant Siobhan McClory.

Submitted by Buddy Owens, Co. 3

MAY 2005

Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meetings of the Loudoun County Fire & Rescue System

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Companies 1,3,5,6,11,1	3	4 Companies 13 & 17	5 Company 15	6	7
8 Company 14	9 Companies 2,7,8,9,12 BLS	10 Rescue Chiefs	11 Company 10 R&R Committee	12	13	14
15	16 Company 1 ALS Committee	17 EMS Council	18 Fire Council	19 Annual Fire-Rescue Service Awards 	20	21
22	23 Companies 4 & 8	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Fire-Rescue Commission				

FIRE-RESCUE SCHEDULED TRAINING

VDFP Confined Space
April 2 & 3, 2005

N.F.A. Incident Safety
Officer
April 5-9, 2005

ICISF CISM-Basic Group
Crisis Intervention Course
April 16-17, 2005

State EMT-B Evaluator
Course
April 23, 2005

Pediatric Advanced Life
Support (P.A.L.S.)
April 23-24, 2005

Intro to Capnography
Intro to 12 Lead EKG
May 1, 2005

EMT-B Summer Course
May 10-August 18, 2005

Company 6 News:

Hats off to **Myra Khan!** Myra was chosen to win the coveted \$1,000.00 **Ray Muth Memorial Scholarship**. Myra, who attends Stone Bridge High School, plans to attend V. C. U. after she completes her senior year. Myra has been a member of Dept. 6 since 2003 and helps with the Explorers' Post. She is also a volunteer EMT. Congratulations, Myra.

Other winners who were honored at the Awards banquet in February were: **Hannah Herrera - \$1,000 scholarship**. She is the captain of the Explorers. **Jason Blaylock - \$500 scholarship**

Acknowledgements also go to the top 5 AVFRD call runners whose call numbers reach the following: **Jason Kohles - 262; Todd Bevans - 250; Mike Cremins - 214; Matt Webb - 205; and Ricky Muth - 201**

The members of **Explorer Post 1666**, sponsored by Ashburn Volunteer Fire Department, are raising money for a trip to the National Explorer Fire/Safety competition in College Station, Texas, June 20 - 24, 2005. The Explorers are our teenagers who are aspiring to be our future firefighters.



Take Charge!
Teach Poison Prevention and
Improve Community Safety

May 4, 2005

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

LCFR Training Center

To Register, call 202-362-3867
or go to www.poison.org
Do NOT submit a TDTR

Sent Articles and Photographs to



FRUST@loudoun.gov

Large Area Search Drill in Purcellville

Submitted by Battalion Chief Allen Colby

On Friday March 11, 2005 the Day Crews from Stations 2, 5, 4 and ALS1 along with Battalion 2 participated in a Large Area Search drill at the former IGA food store in Purcellville. The vacant 50,000 square foot building offered a unique opportunity for the crews to practice their skills in both line searches as well as the use of the Thermal Image camera.

With the building filled with theatrical smoke and darkened, the drill was divided into two evolutions. The first evolution involved a search of the retail part of the store searching simulated aisles. The second evolution utilized the Thermal Camera while conducting a search of the rear of the store which included numerous rooms and walk-in coolers.

In the Tag Line or Safety Line search the crews were broken into three person teams and entered the front of the structure. The team leader secured a lifeline to an object outside, and then stretched the line through the front door and past the checkout lanes to the farthest point of the building staying in front of, or on Side Adam of the aisles. Crew members followed and were attached to the lifeline via Carabiners with 75' throw/rope bags. With the crew in position at the "first" aisle the team leader distributed his personnel, assigning each person an aisle. The crew member searched the aisle while tethering off the main lifeline with the throw rope. The team leader kept the lifeline tight and coordinated/monitored



The open space of the old IGA Food Store in Purcellville was used for the drill.



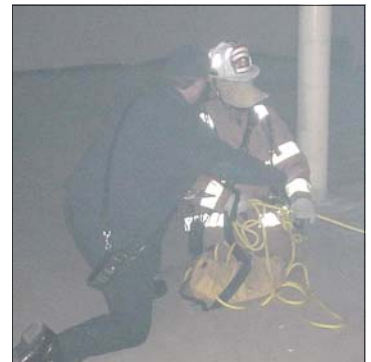
FF Tom Hamilton and crew enters the structure to begin the search.



Left: The search crew hooks onto the search line.



Middle: FF Bill Sarley and Vince Dietrick discuss techniques used in the drill.



Right: BC Allen Colby instructs Capt. Roger Martin during the drill.

Continued on Page 8



APRIL-JUNE 2005 Virginia Course Schedule

MGT 310 <u>Date</u> September 20 – 22	Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD): Threat and Risk Assessment Local Jurisdiction <u>Location</u> Prince William County Criminal Justice Academy
MGT 313 <u>Date</u> June 14 – 16 June 21 – 23	Incident Management / Unified Command for WMD / Terrorism Incidents <u>Location</u> Fairfax Criminal Justice Academy Prince William County Criminal Justice Academy
MGT 315 <u>Date</u> April 19 – 20 October 18 – 19	Enhanced Threat and Risk Assessment <u>Location</u> READI – Ashburn, VA Prince William County Criminal Justice Academy
PER 210 <u>Date</u> June 28 - 30	Public Works: Planning for and Responding to a Terrorism/WMD Incident <u>Location</u> READI – Ashburn, VA
PER 225 <u>Date</u> May 2 – 4 August 16 – 18	Law Enforcement Response to WMD – Operations Level Train-the-Trainer <u>Location</u> READI – Ashburn, VA Prince William County Criminal Justice Academy
PER 231 <u>Date</u> November 2	Prevention and Response to Suicide Bombings <u>Location</u> Prince William County Criminal Justice Academy
AWR 130 <u>Date</u> July 21 December 9	Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings - Awareness <u>Location</u> Prince William County Criminal Justice Academy Prince William County Criminal Justice Academy

Please try to register 2 weeks prior to course start date. To register please send an email to readi411@gwu.edu and be sure to include the course title, course date, your name, title, agency, address, phone and email address. Be sure to list the course title in the subject line of the email. For any questions regarding registration, please email readi411@gwu.edu or call (703)726-3700. For more information, please visit us www.readi.gwu.edu. For any other questions, call the READI office at 703-726-3700.

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Hyde Park Fire

On Sunday, March 6th at 1445 hours, a house fire was dispatched for BOX # 23-2 in Ashburn. The first arriving units found a large single family dwelling that had fire and heavy smoke showing from multiple sides.

The attack on this fire was carried out by multiple crews operating multiple hand lines. After a partial collapse of some of the interior floors, the attack transitioned to an exterior attack involving master stream operations from Quint 11. After the bulk of the fire was knocked down, crews returned to the interior to perform overhaul operations.

During the course of extinguishing this fire, four firefighters were injured. Three fire fighters suffered from burns ranging from 1st to 2nd degree and the fourth twisted an ankle. All firefighters were treated and released from the hospital the same day.

The homeowner was also transported to the hospital with a chief complaint of trouble breathing. The homeowner had attempted to extinguish the fire on her own prior to the arrival of the fire department. She was treated and released, as well.

A critique for this fire will be held on Friday, April 1st at Fire Station 23 at 1800 hours. A written report is being prepared and will follow this critique. Further information regarding the fire critique can be obtained from BC Mike Lamb."

Firefighters from Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Sterling Volunteer Fire Department, Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad, Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority (Dulles Fire) and Loudoun County Fire and Rescue worked together to bring this fire under control.

Submitted by David Short, Co. 11

Photographs Courtesy of Danielle Schweisthal, Co. 11



Crews finish up knocking down the last of the active fire.



The Incident Commander, BC Mike Lamb (LCFR), confers with Captain Johnny Bischoff (SVFC) during overhaul operations.



Lt. Morimoto (SVFC) and an unidentified firefighter (LCFR) overhaul some of the exterior features of the house.



Pictured is a portion of the interior collapse.

Please Advise New Members How To Obtain Fire-Rescue Photo ID Cards

The only responsibility of the volunteer is to have their photograph taken by the Communications Division staff. They need to call the Communication's Center at 703-777-0637 prior to coming to the center to ensure the dispatchers are not too busy. Please give the new member directions to the Training Center. They will not receive your card at that time. The ID cards will be processed and sent to the company President for distribution. Thank you!



Drill in Purcellville Continued from Page 5

the search effort. After the aisle was searched each team member returned to the lifeline and the crew moved as a unit to the next set of aisles. This continued in a systematic progression working back towards the entry point of the structure. When a victim was encountered, search members were recalled back to the lifeline and redeployed to the aisle containing the victim.

In the Thermal Camera evolution crews were also broken into three person teams and sent into the rear of the store to search for and recover a "victim". This part of the structure was partitioned off into various stock areas and contained the old walk-in freezer and refrigerators. This evolution reinforced the value of having the Thermal Image technology available to speed the search of such large areas.

Many lessons were learned and ideas shared in this drill especially with the line search evolutions. We found this type of

search in such a large area to be very time consuming and labor intensive. A great deal of coordination between search team members was needed to insure that a thorough and systematic search is completed while also maintaining crew integrity and accountability.

With the lack of any county-wide standard and regular formalized training in large area searches, the participants in the drill discussed many different approaches to performing the task. Numerous techniques were suggested and practiced to test their efficiency. All of the participants came away with an appreciation of the enormous effort that is needed to search a large area structure.

Special thanks go out to Tech. Jeff Johnson and Capt. Corey Parker for setting up the drill as well as Mike Holden, the shopping center manager for the use of their facility.